Message Text

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, NO. 35

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SUMMARY. PEKING SEEMS TO HAVE ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS WHICH, WHILE CALLING FOR THE CONTINUED CRITICISMOF TENG HSIAO-PING'S LINE, PUT STILL STRONGER EMPHASIS ON A UNIFIED AND CONTROLLED CAMPAIGN. THE CENTER INSTRUCTIONS ALSO CONTAIN STRONG REFERENCES TO GETTING THE ECONOMIC PRODUCTION TASKS COMPLETED. NCNA REPORTS THAT EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE NEW HIGHS, BUT A TANGSHAN RESIDENT REPORTS THAT 900,000 CASUALTIES OCCURRED IN THE JULY 28 QUAKE. PEKING LAUNCHED ITS FIRST EARTH SATELLITE THIS YEAR AND SIXTH SINCE THE START OF THE SATELLITE PROGRAM. ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE, PRC MEDIA ATTENTION TO KOREA INDICATES PEKING'S SUPPORT FOR DPRK PROPOSALS TO REDUCE POSSIBLE CONFLICTS IN THE DMZ. A COMMENTARY IN THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS HAS NOTED THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO AVOID NAMIBIA'S BECOMING A "SECOND ANGOLA."

1. PROVINCIAL RESPONSE TO THE AUGUST 23 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST OF CHINA'S PROVINCES HAVE RESPONDED TO THE AUGUST 23 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL BY REPEATING THE CALL FOR DEEPENING THE CRITICISM OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S PROGRAMS WHILE EMPHASIZING PRODUCTION, PARTY LEADERSHIP, AND DEALING WITH "SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES." IN PARTICULAR, MASS RALLIES IN KWEICHEW AND

YUNNAN PROVINCES WERE HELD LAST WEEK TO UNDERSCORE STUDY OF

THE EDITORIAL AND IMPLEMENT THE "PARTY CENTER'S RECENT INSTRUCTIONS." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

- 2. ALTHOUGH THESE "INSTRUCTIONS" ARE NOT IDENTIFIED, PROVINCIAL MEDIA RESPONSE TO THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT A RECENT CENTRAL DIRECTIVE MAY HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO DEAL WITH FACTIONAL AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS IN A CLOSELY CONTROLLED CONTINUATION OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG UNDER THE "UNIFIED LEADERSHIP OF PARTY COMMITTEES AT ALL LEVELS.Z STRESS HAS BEEN PLACED ON EFFORTS TO "PROMOTE STABILITY AND UNITY" IN KWEICHOW, AND OTHER AREAS ARE CALLING FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION, DEALING "RESOLUTE BLOWS AT SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES," CONTROLLING FACTIONALISM, AND SUPPORTING EARTHQUAKE RELIEF. CADRES WHO HAVE MADE MISTAKES WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO REFORM UNDER THE MAOIST DICTIM "CURE THE SICKNESS TO SAVE THE PATIENT." CONFIDENTIAL
- 3. DESPITE SOME RECENT MEDIA ARTICLES IMPLYING THAT DISSATISFIED ELEMENTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND THE CAMPAIGN (PEKING 1696, PEKING 1702), THE PROVINCIAL RESPONSE TO THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL AND THE PARTY CENTER'S "RECENT INSTRUCTIONS" SUGGEST THAT A CROSS SECTION OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT ECONOMIC AND FACTIONAL PROBLEMS MUST BE DEALT WITH ON A PRIORITY BASIS. WE SUSPECT THE SNIPING WILL CONTINUE AND THAT ANY DERAILMENT OF ANTI TENG ACTIVITY WILL BE RESISTED, BUT FOR NOW, THE EFFORT TO PROMOTE "IDEOLOGICAL STUDY" LOOKS TOWARD LONG-TERM, FUTURE RESOLUTION OF THE "CAPITALIST ROADERS IN THE PARTY" USSUE. CONFIDENTIAL
- 4. EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY AND LEARNING FROM FIRE VICTIMS

ALTHOUGH AFP REPORTS THREE SLIGHT TREMORS WERE FELT IN PEKING CONFIDENTIAL.

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ON AUGUST 31, THE PRC LEADERSHIP'S CONCERN ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A FURTHER MAJOR QUAKE HAS OBVIOUSLY DIMINISHED.

MOST OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL TEAMS DESPATCHED TO THE TANGSHAN-FENGNAN AREA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE JULY 28 QUAKES ARE NOW RETURNING TO THEIR HOME PROVINCES. HOWEVER, TEAMS OF WORKERS AND EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS PROVINCES CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE AFFECTED AREA IN ORDER TO RESTORE PRODUCTION. NCNA HAS REPORTED "PARTIAL" RESTORATION OF PRODUCTION OF TANGSHAN STEEL AND TANGSHAN CEMENT PLANTS, BUT THE "MONTHLONG STRUGGLE" STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TOWARD FULL RECOVERY. UNCLASSIFIED

5. HONG KONG'S MING PAO (AUGUST 30) PUBLISHED A LETTER WRITTEN BY A TANGSHAN RESIDENT WHO CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE 900,000 CASUALTIES IN THE JULY 28 DISASTER AND REPORTED

THE OCCURRENCE OF CHOLERA CASES. THE INDIVIDUAL, WHO LOST HIS OWN FAMILY IN THE QUAKE, CLAIMED THAT THE CASUALTY FIGURE WAS PROVIDED BY A RELATIVE WHO WAS AN OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN THE RELIEF WORK. THE NUMBERS ARE SIMILAR TO THE AFP'S REPORT OF 800,000 CASUALTIES LAST WEEK WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE (WR 34). UNCLASSIFIED

6 BROADCASTS OVER KWANGTUNG PROVINCIAL RADIO REPLAYED IN THE HONG KONG PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS HAVE NOTED, RATHER BELATEDLY, THAT FIRE DESTROYED A FIVE-STORY CANTON BUILDING ON JUNE 12. MAKING THE MOST OF THE DISASTER, RALLIES WERE HELD RECENTLY TO CONFER THE TITLE OF "REVOLUTIONARY MARTYR" ON THOSE WHO HAD GIVEN THEIR LIVES FIGHTING THE BLAZE. THE EVENT IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE, BUT THE DELAY IN REPORTING THE FIRE INDICATES HOW NEWS ITEMS WITHIN THE PRC REMAIN TIGHTLY HELD. UNCLASSIFIED

7. PRC LAUNCHES SIXTH SATELLITE

NCNA ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRC SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED ANOTHER EARTH SATELLITE ON AUGUST 30, MAKING THIS THE SIXTH SINCE THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH IN 1970 (THREE WERE LAUNCHED IN 1975). THE ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT REVEAL ORBITAL DATA AND, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE PREVIOUSLY, FAILED TO GIVE DETAILS OF THE SATELLITE'S EXACT FUNCTION. UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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8. AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA. A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAMIBIA'S STRUGGLE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIAL RULE NOTED THAT THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO PERSERVERE IN ARMED STRUGGLE AND CONDEMNED THE RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL TAKS IN WINDHOEK AS PART OF SOUTH AFRICA'S "DOUBLE-DEALING TACTICS... TO ENTICE THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE TO GIVE UP THEIR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE." NCNA ALSO CARRIED SWAPO AND OAU DENUNCIATIONS OF THE CONSTITU-

TIONAL TALKS. MEANWHILE, HONG KONG'S OWNED-PEC WEN WEI PAO CARRIED A COMMENTARY WHICH ATTACKED U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS SUPPORTIVE OF WHITE MINORITY INTRESTS. IT CLAIMED ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THE SECRETARY'S SUPPORT OF NAMINIAN INDEPENDENCE IN HIS UPCOMING MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IS FEAR THAT NAMBIA WILL BECOME A "SECOND ANGOLA". GIVEN PEKING'S LIMITED LEVERAGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND LARGER CONCERN WITH THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE, THE COMMENTARY ATTEMPTS TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF CHINA'S SIDING WITH THE U.S. ON AN ISSUE IN WHICH THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT (NCNA AUGUST 25-26, WEN WEI PAO SETEMBER 1). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

9. NORHTERN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH CHINESE DOMESTIC MEDIA HAVE NOT BEEN CRITICIAL OF LIBYA, NOR MENTIONED LIBYA'S DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND THE SUDAN, A GROWING NUMBER OF COMMENTRAIES IN HONG KONG'S COMMUNIST PRESS CLEARLY INDICATE SUPPORT FOR EGYPT AND SUDAN AGAINST THEIR ARAB NEIGHBOR. RESPONDING TO A RECENT PRAVDA ARTICLE WHCH SUPPORTED LIBYA AND WAS CRITICAL OF EGYPT, A TA KUNG PAO COMMENTARY REPEATED SOME OF ANWAR SADAT'S MORE STRIDENT ATTACKS AGAINST LIBYA AND IT INVOLVEMENT IN THE ABORTIVE SUDANESE COUP (WR 29). THE COMMENTRAY CONTINUED THE THEME THAT THE LIBYANS ARE BACKED BY THE REAL INSTIGATOR OF TROUBLE IN THE AREA, THE SOVIETS (WEN WEI PAO AUGUST 31 AND 8, TA KUNG PAO JULY 27). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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10. KOREA

ALTHOUGH NCNA HAS NOT REPORTED THE MESSAGE OF DPRK PRESIDENT KIM IL-SUNG TO THE U.N. COMMANDER, ITS REPORT OF THE AUGUST 25TH KOREAN MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION (MCA) MEETING INDICATED A SOFTENING IN PYONGYANG'S RECENT ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. ROK WAR PROVOCATIONS. CITING KCNA REPORTS, NCNA NOTED THAT DPRK MAJOR GENERAL HAN JU GYONG LINKED THE INCIDENTS IN THE DMZ JOINT SECURITY AREA WITH CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR GUARD DUTY. IT ALSO REVELAED PEKING'S SUPPORT FOR THE "REASONABLE PROPOSAL" ADVANCED BY THE "SENIOR MEMBER OF THE KOREAN-CHINESE SIDE" TO ENSURE SECURITY AND PREVENT FUTHER CLASHES IN THE AREA. DURING THE WEEK, NCNA REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE RESOLUTION OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON KOREA (NCNA AUGUST 26-31). UNCLASSIFIED

11. THE SOVIETS

TASS CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT THREATEN ANY COUNTRY IN THE PERSIAN GULF WERE CALLED "HYPROCITICIAL LIES

AND BLFUFFS" IN AN NCNA COMMENTARY. THE COMMENTARY LINKED TASS'S STATEMENTS TO RUSSIAN RAGE OVER THE IRANINA-U.S ARMS DEAL REACHED DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT VISIT (WR 33). WHILE A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY SUPPORTED THE SHAH'S RECENT FOREIGN ARMS PURCHASE AS A NECESSARY COUNTER TO THE SOVIETS. DURING THE WEEK, OTHER CHINESE MEDIA REPORTING ON THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ATTACKED THE SOVIETS FOR CLINGNG TO THE POSITION THAT THE 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE IS PART OF THE HIGH SEAS. ON SOVIET INTERNAL POLICIES, AN NCNA COMMENTARY CLAIMED POPULAR DISCONTENT WAS "SMOLDERING" BECAUSE OF HARVEST SHORTFALLS, CROP FAILURES, RETAIL PRICES RISES, SUPPRESSION OF NON-RUSSSIAN LANGUAGES AND THE SELLING OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO OBTAIN WESTERN LOANS (NCNA AUGUST 25-30). UNCLASSIFIED

12. TAWIAN/NUCLEAR CAPABILITY/THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

THE PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO IN HONG KONG NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S RECENT REMARKS ON TAIWAN'S CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THE BRIEF SEPTEMBER 1 AFP REPORT ON AN INSIDE PAGE CITED THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT TAIWAN HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE U.S.'S STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REPROCESSING, IT INDICATED THAT HE CONFIRMED THAT TAIWAN IS IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING A SMALL REPORCESSING PLANT FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES BUL LACKS THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. UNCLASSIFIED

13. THE PRC, IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, HAS AGAIN REITERATED ITS CLAIMS TO THE DISPUTED PARACELS AND STRATLY ISLANDS IN THE COURSE OF AN OSTENSIBLE REPORT ON CHINESE ARCHAEOLIGISTS' WORK IN THE PARACELS. THIS PROBABLY IS A PARTIAL RESPONSE TO REPORTS FROM MANILA OF A FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE INVOLKING SOUTH CHINA SEA COUNTRIES AND TAIWAN'S RECENTLY REITERATED CLAIMS TO THE SPRATLYS. (NCNA AUGUST 31) UNCLASSIFIED

14. FRANCE

NCNA CARRIED A STRAIGHTFORWARDED REPORT OF THE RESIGNATION OF JACQUES CHIRAC AND HIS REPLACEMENT AS PRIME MINISTER BY RAYMOND BARRE. HONG KONG'S PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO, HOWEVER, CARRIED TWO COMMENTARIES INDICATING CONCERN THAT, IN THE LONG RUN, THE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT WOULD LEAD TO A SITUATION IN WHICH SOCILAIST-COMMUNIST FORCES WOULD GAIN IN STRENGTH AND FRANCE MIGHT THEN TURN INTO "A SECOND ITALY". (NCNA AUGUST 27, TA KUNG PAO AUGUST 26 AND 28). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

15. VIPS AND VICE PREMIERS

ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL SOMARE IS NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE PRC IN OCTOBER. MEANWHILE, NCNA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 2 WESTERN SAMOA'S HEAD OF STATE, TUNUMAFILI II, WILL BEGIN AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA. (PORT MORESBY 0913 AND NCNA AUGUST 26-31). CONFIDENTIAL. CROSS

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